

PRESS RELEASE.

**6<sup>TH</sup> Nigerian Dredging Summit Holds In September...  
Honours Westminster Dredging, NPA, Unveils Association.**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Nigerian Dredging Summit and Exhibition, fixed to hold next month in Abuja will confer long-service honors awards to Westminster Dredging Nigeria Ltd and Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) for their enduring service to the industry dating back to the pre-independence era.

According to a release signed by the national coordinator of the summit series, Mr Edmund Chilaka, the award scheme is to encourage more involvement of big stakeholders in capacity development of younger Nigerian companies and individual small dredge operators; to achieve higher levels of local content in the award of dredging contracts; to raise awareness of policymakers and government officials on the need to avoid project failures like the 2007 Calabar dredging contract; to articulate the gains of manpower training for Nigerian workers in the industry as well as the uses of a credible registered association for local operators and contractors.

Others to be honoured are Federal Ministry of Transport as the supervisory ministry for public sector dredging projects in Nigeria; National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) for managing the recent dredging of the Lower River Niger; NIMASA as the safety administrator for cabotage trade and registrar of dredgers operating in Nigeria; Lagos Channel Management (LCM) for harbor dredging in Lagos Ports Complex and for manpower development of Nigerians; Bonny Channel Company (BCC) for harbor dredging on the Bonny River and Fivestar Logistics Ltd as the selected dredging terminal of the year for the summit.

Speakers at this year's event include the Honourable Minister of Transport, Senator Idris Umar; Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment, Chief Segun Aganga; Capt Ime Ntiaidem, Akwa Ibom State University; River State Commissioner for Environment, and Chief Musa Danjuma, Executive Chairman of Fivestar Logistics Ltd.

Technical papers, in their areas of statutory mandate, will be presented by the MD of NPA, the DG of NIMASA, the MD of NIWA, the MD of LCM, the MD of BCC and the project consultant of Haskoning Engineering Consultants Nigeria Ltd on "Mean Sea Level Differential" at the Lagos Bar Beach.

Other seminar presentations will be given by CARES (UK) on "Optimizing the Management of Economic Channels: (i) Siltation Study of Nigerian Navigation Channels, and (ii) The Need for Dykes to Reduce Siltation Buildup in Main Channels"; "Managing a Viable Dredging Company and Bidding for Dredging Projects" by experts in the field; "The Role Of Federal Ministry Of Environment In Large Capital Dredging Works Involving Wreck Survey And Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)" by Federal Ministry of Environment; Etc.

The two-day event which will have equipment and other exhibitions on the sidelines will also feature a gala night where the Honourable Ministers in attendance will confer the awards and formally launch the Dredging and Sand Dealers Association of Nigeria (DRES DAN).